



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

GRATITUDE GRANTS

Flexible Grant to Meet Local Needs

Gratitude Grants are the ENF's way of saying thank you to every Lodge that meets the GER's per-member-giving goal to the ENF. These \$2,000-\$2,500 grants offer an opportunity for Elks to think about how best to serve their community and make it stronger. Last year, 89 percent of eligible Lodges were approved for a Gratitude Grant, so start planning today!

New Rule: Gratitude Grant eligibility is now based on whether the Lodge has reached the GER's per-member-giving goal in the prior fiscal year. If the Lodge met the 2017-18 goal, the Lodge will be able to apply for a 2018-19 Gratitude Grant on July 1.

New Application Dates: Applications for 2018-19 Gratitude Grants open **July 1, 2018**. Applications must be submitted before the project takes place. Applications close **December 31, 2018**. Funds must be spent by **March 31, 2019**.

Grant Amount: Every Lodge that meets the GER's per-member-giving goal is eligible for a \$2,000 grant. Additionally, Lodges in which more than 15 percent of its members donated at least \$10 to the ENF in 2017-18 (per the ENF Membership Support Report) will be eligible for a bonus of \$500. This bonus will be automatically added to your Lodge's Gratitude Grant application, and you will have the ability to request up to \$2,500.

Charitable Focus: ENF Grants should always be used for charitable purposes. Keep the following IRS defined categories in mind when planning a grant project: relieve the poor, distressed or underprivileged; advance education; lessen the burdens of government; lessen neighborhood tensions; eliminate prejudice and discrimination; combat juvenile delinquency.

Flexibility: Gratitude Grants may also be used for more than one project. If the Lodge is unable to plan an active project, it may use a Gratitude Grant to donate funds or supplies to a charitable organization. However, we encourage Lodges to use Gratitude Grants in an active way. To encourage active projects, each Lodge that applies for a donation will receive a follow-up email. Please read the entire email, and contact the ENF with any questions.

Restrictions: ENF Grant guidelines state that Lodges may not use grants to support State Major Projects, national Elks programs, fund scholarships, Hoop/Soccer Shoot events, youth awards nights, poster and/or essay contests, appreciation dinners, Lodge maintenance and/or repairs, fundraisers, general community events or to benefit Lodge members and their families.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's charitable project and how it will serve the community.
- Why is this an important community need? How will the Lodge identify people in need to help?
- We highly encourage your Lodge to consider using the Gratitude Grant in an active way. Active projects increase visibility in the community and encourages more people to get

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involved. How many Lodge members will volunteer? What are their duties and responsibilities?

- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project? How will the Lodge measure its success?
- Itemized budget. *Please note: No more than 10 percent of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses. This includes t-shirts and other non-essential merchandise.*

Gratitude Grant Examples

Last year, more than 1,500 Lodges used a Gratitude Grant to serve community members in need. Check out some examples of great Gratitude Grant projects.

Richmond, Va., Lodge No. 45: Elks serve veterans at a local Transition Rehabilitation Program and in the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program. The Lodge hosts several cookouts, a Stand Down for veterans experiencing homelessness, and a picnic at the Lodge for spinal cord injury unit patients.

Ashland, Ore., Lodge No. 944: Elks partner weekly with Lifespan Respite in order to relieve the burden of community members caring for a family member in need, such as someone with a medical condition or physical disability. The Lodge opens its doors for the event four hours a week. Elks help with set-up, clean-up, and provide food and needed supplies.

Perryville, Mo., Lodge No. 2701: Elks host a bingo dinner for a camp of 35 to 40 seniors with disabilities. The camp is a permanent living facility for residents. In addition to small bingo prizes, Elks provide gift bags of toiletries. The Lodge also delivers meals twice a year to local senior homes.

Mission Viejo- Saddleback Valley, Calif., Lodge No. 2444: The Lodge supplies veterans in need with necessary items for a job skills course. Elks work very closely with VetNet, a charitable group dedicated to assisting with job training, job placement and clothing for veterans. The supplies were for a five-day customer service course after which veterans received a certificate of completion and job placement.

Good for Them	Better for the Lodge
Donation to food bank	Serve monthly meals at the food bank
Donation to youth groups	Build a garden at local youth center
Donation to veterans group	Assemble Welcome Home Kits for veterans in need.
Donation to a local shelter	Renovate the playroom at a local shelter
Donation to restore a city building.	Partner with youth to hold community clean-up days.

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